Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, RO

SUBJ: PROSPECTIVE AGRIBUSINESS ACTIVITIES

REF: BUCHAREST 0605, 75 STATE 305491, 75 BUCHAREST 4021

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS FEBRUARY 4 TO REVIEW AGRIBUSINESS VENTURES THAT HAD BEEN EVOKED IN PAST AND TO UNDERLINE ONCE AGAIN THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN USDOC AND USDA IN MATTERS OF AGRIBUSINESS. THIS GROUND HAD ALREADY BEEN COVERED WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MOST RECENTLY WITH RESPECT TO PROSPECTIVE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AT END OF MONTH OF U.S.-ROMANIAN JOINT WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND COOPERATION (BUCH 605). EMBASSY HAVING LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE USUALLY DEFERS TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WHEN COMMERCIAL PROPOSALS COME TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRACTICAL TERMS, IT WAS DESIRED TO ACHIEVE BEST POSSIBLE COORDINATION BETWEEN MINISTRIES SO THAT WORKING GROUP SESSIONS CAN DEAL WITH ROMANIAN AGRIBUSINESS INTERESTS IN CONCRETE MANNER. IN THAT RESPECT, PARA 6 STATE 305491 ASSURANCE THAT USDA WORKING GROUP TEAM WILL BRING IN REPRESENTATIVES FROM USDA, COMMERCE OR OTHER USG AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE WAS MADE KNOWN TO MFT WHILE IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED MOST EFFECTIVELY IF THE PROJECTS OF INTEREST WERE IDENTIFIED IN ADVANCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 2. LIST OF AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS DRAWN UP LAST AUGUST BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (BUCH 4021) WAS TAKEN AS POINT OF DEPARTURE BY EMBASSY. FOR MOST ITEMS ON LIST, ROMANIANS HAD NOT--TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE--GIVEN FURTHER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. THIS INCLUDED INSTANCES IN WHICH OCCASIONS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES HAD NOT BEEN SEIZED, E.G. FAILURE OF MINISTER MICULESCU'S TEAM WHILE IN CALIFORNIA LAST SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS WITH FMC A DEHYDRATED-MILK FACILITY, EVEN THOUGH THE DESIRE FOR SUCH A VENTURE IN COOPERATION WITH FMC HAD BEEN NOTED IN THE MINISTRY'S AUGUST LIST. EMBOFFS MADE MENTION OF THREE ADDITIONAL MATTERS THAT HAD BEEN BROACHED WITH AGRICULTURE BUT ON WHICH HEADWAY HAD NOT BEEN OBSERVED: HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL TO FURNISH BREEDING STOCK; CORN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS INTEREST IN INCREASING CORN YIELDS IN ROMANIA: AND HAWAIIAN AGRONOMICS CO. DESIRE TO UNDERTAKE SOIL DESALINIZATION WORK IN AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE GOR. FOREIGN TRADE INTERLOCUTORS SAID THEY WOULD PROVIDE REACTIONS AFTER CHECKING ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS.
- 3. DISCUSSION ALONG SIMILAR LINES IS PLANNED IN NEXT FEW DAYS WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. EMBASSY HOPE IN CARRYING ON DISCUSSIONS AT MINISTRIES CONCERNED IS TO CLARIFY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ROMANIAN INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO AGRICUSINESS BY THE TIME JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETS. WE HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AT THE LEAST, TO ESTABLISH WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED UNDER CURRENT PLAN AND WHAT WILL NEED TO BE GENERATED OUTSIDE PLAN.
- 4. WELCOME ANY WASHINGTON INPUT TO THESE EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS ON AGRIBUSINESS.
 BARNES

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